

FEBRUARY 21, 1976

THE SINAI AGREEMENT

ANNCR:

THE SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL GOES INTO FULL EFFECT THIS WEEKEND (SUNDAY). NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE THOUGHTS:

VOICE:

AS ISRAEL'S FLAG WAS LOWERED TODAY (SATURDAY) IN WHAT IS NOW THE UNITED NATIONS BUFFER ZONE IN THE SINAI DESERT, THIS ACTION ENDED A CHAPTER IN THE LONG AND TORTUOUS ROAD TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT IT WAS ONLY A CHAPTER--HOWEVER ENCOURAGING--AND MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE THAT PEACE THAT HAS ELUDED ARABS AND ISRAELIS FOR MANY YEARS CAN BECOME A SOLID REALITY.

IT WAS IN AWARENESS OF THIS FACT OF LIFE IN THAT STRIFE-TORN AREA OF THE WORLD THAT UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM SAID IN A PRESS STATEMENT THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR ACTIVE PURSUIT OF A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. AND ACCORDINGLY, U.N. UNDERSECRETARY ROBERTO GUYER LEAVES NEW YORK MONDAY FOR ISRAEL, EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN. HIS MISSION IS TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR A RESUMPTION OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

THE LOWERING OF THE ISRAELI FLAG IN THE SINAI AND THE MOVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN TROOPS TO THE WESTERN LINE OF THE U.N. BUFFER ZONE THIS WEEKEND MARKS THE OFFICIAL OUTCOME OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL UNDER AMERICAN AUSPICES LAST YEAR. THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS UNDERTAKEN BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND ISRAELI AND ARAB LEADERS SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR OF 1973 HAS PRODUCED VERY REAL PROGRESS. THIS WAS IN THE SHAPE

OF THREE INTERIM AGREEMENTS, OF WHICH THE ONE THAT GOES (WENT) INTO EFFECT THIS WEEKEND IS THE THIRD. THE FIRST TWO WERE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. AS A RESULT OF THESE AGREEMENTS, THE ATTITUDES OF THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES TOWARD EACH OTHER HAVE IMPROVED SOMEWHAT.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE STILL REMAIN A SERIES OF COMPLEX ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED--NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN RECOGNITION OF WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE, THE UNITED STATES IS PURSUING ITS ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. ITS AMBASSADORS TO THE MIDDLE EAST NATIONS WILL BE CONSULTING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN REPORTEDLY IS COMING TO WASHINGTON ABOUT THE-SAME TIME--ALSO FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE-STATE -DEPARTMENT.

THROUGHOUT ALL THESE CONSULTATIONS, PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BE PURSUING A TWIN AIM--HOW TO IMPART ADDITIONAL MOMENTUM TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS, AND HOW TO KEEP THE UNITED STATES POSITION-IN THOSE EFFORTS FLEXIBLE. IN THE UNITED STATES VIEW, THE FRAMEWORK FOR A NEGOTIATED, EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS IN PLACE. WHAT MUST BE DONE NOW IS TO PUSH AHEAD THIS YEAR TO CONSOLIDATE THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE AND LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FURTHER ADVANCES.

AND SO, WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL NOW A FACT OF HISTORY, THE ATTENTION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED CAN TURN TO MAKING THE INTERIM PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST A MORE PERMANENT, EQUITABLE ONE THAT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS AND SECURE EXISTENCE OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA. -0-